

What is claimed is:

1. An automatic photography system comprising:

a photographing portion; and

a control portion comprising:

5 a shape extracting means, for repeatedly extracting shapes that represent expressions of human subjects within images, which are being imaged by the photographing portion;

a match calculating means for recording predetermined shapes in advance, and for sequentially calculating the
10 degrees of match between the extracted shapes and the predetermined shapes; and

a control means for controlling the photographing portion to photograph the subjects when the calculated degrees of match exceed a predetermined threshold value.

15 2. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the predetermined threshold value is decreased according to an increase in the number of shape extractions.

20 3. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 2, wherein:

the control portion further comprises:

an identifying data receiving means, for receiving identifying data, transmitted from the subjects, that identifies the subjects; and

25 a memory means for recording predetermined threshold values corresponding to the identifying data of the subjects

received by the identifying data receiving means; wherein:

the control means controls the photographing portion based on the predetermined threshold values which are recorded in the memory means, corresponding to the received identifying data.

4. An automatic photography system comprising:

a photographing portion; and

a control portion comprising:

a shape extracting means, for repeatedly extracting shapes that represent poses of subjects within images, which are being imaged by the photographing portion;

a match calculating means for recording predetermined shapes in advance, and for sequentially calculating the degrees of match between the extracted shapes and the predetermined shapes; and

a control means for controlling the photographing portion to photograph the subjects when the calculated degrees of match exceed a predetermined threshold value.

5. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 4, wherein:

the predetermined threshold value is decreased according to an increase in the number of shape extractions.

6. An automatic photography system as defined in claim 5, wherein:

the control portion further comprises:

an identifying data receiving means, for receiving

identifying data, transmitted from the subjects, that identifies the subjects; and

a memory means for recording predetermined threshold values corresponding to the identifying data of the subjects
5 received by the identifying data receiving means; wherein:

the control means controls the photographing portion based on the predetermined threshold values which are recorded in the memory means, corresponding to the received identifying data.